

8 JULY 2021

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**PERMISSION TO INSTALL PUBLIC ART TO FORM A SCULPTURE TRAIL****EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

PURPOSE

This report seeks to act to demonstrate the Councils support, and in principle agreement to allow a piece of public art be installed to form part of a sculpture trail within its administrative boundary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet give its support and agreement to a piece of public art, known as “The Spirit of Tamworth” be installed at the location identified in the body of this report, subject to all necessary approvals being obtained by the group and a receipt of an undertaking this will be at no budgetary cost to the council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For some years the Council have been working with this project team, having previously granted permission within the castle grounds for public art to be erected, however progress had been slow as the location had proved to be far from ideal given its proximity to the ancient scheduled monument.

More recently an alternate location has been identified at the junction of the cycle track and Fazeley road adjacent to Holloway car park which appears to be suitable. Subject to statutory approval by all necessary authorities this location could act as a focal point within the town, and enhance and bring a new dimension to the Councils regeneration plans, specifically enhancing our cultural offer. The statue could act as a focal “selfie” point for visitors, and also a clear meeting point for the castle.

The Spirit team are advanced with their financing and looking for Council support to further add credibility to this project, and once they have Council agreement they will begin with the planning application and all other necessary formal permissions. Cabinet is asked to note they have already consulted with highways and emergency services to ensure the proposed location is acceptable.

While this project is still subject to gaining its funding, the Council has asked that the project will be completed by March 2024 so that it coincides with key dates for the Future High Street project. The Regeneration Team will facilitate this deadline to ensure critical dates are aligned.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This report is clear that it grants permission in principle, and supports the installation of the Spirit statue, subject to all permissions being obtained. Further the entire project is to be completed at no budgetary cost to the Council.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND.

The Spirit project team must ensure all necessary permissions are obtained prior to any installation being started, and further must agree all installation methodology with the appropriate authority at the time of installation. Further clarification will be necessary to ensure the long term upkeep and maintenance of the statue, insurance, and final ownership.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

none

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

none

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

REPORT AUTHOR

Andrew Barratt Chief Executive

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDICES